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Bessey in southern Nebraska in great loose masses in the railway ditches.

Vinegar and its Mother. F. A. Fernald. (Pop. Sci. Month., pp. 378–384.)

Wild Flowers of Dakota. John W. Dunlap. (Gard. Month., xxix., p. 21.)

It is stated that the *Heliotropium Curasavicum* is extremely abundant along the margins of Long Lake, near Woonsocket, Dakota.

Wind and the Tree-Tops. B. F. Hoyt. (Amer. Nat., xx., pp. 1051, 1052.)

From 156 observations on injuries by the wind to deciduous-leaved trees, Mr. Hoyt concludes that these are generally broken at the crotch, this being the weakest point. The Coniferæ having a central axis and verticillate branching, are seldom broken, but generally torn up by the roots. He advances the hypothesis that "the accumulated effects of the wind have been to develop excurrent forms of tree-top," and queries why the Coniferæ should have this in greater perfection than other plants, suggesting that deciduous trees are injured only when in foliage—which is scarcely true in all cases,—while evergreens, being always in foliage, are more exposed to the wind; also that as the Coniferæ are geologically older than Angiosperms, they have had more time to accumulate the effects of the wind and develop an excurrent form of top. Mr. Hoyt does not take into account the fact that the method of branching of Coniferæ is largely determined by their growth from apical cells.

Zauschneria Californica. (Garden, xxxi., pp. 28, 29, with plate.)

The Californian Fuchsia has brilliant scarlet blossoms with exserted stamens, and is a very showy plant in cultivation.

Botanical Notes.

Concerning Guarana and Coca. The *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*, in its issue of January 5, departs from its usual careful habits in printing an extract from the work of Mr. H. Semler in reference to "Kola Nuts, Guarana and Coca." The statements there made are so opposed to the facts that it is difficult to imagine how any one could have made them by accident. Mr. Semler states that "no steps have yet been taken to cultivate the Guarana," whereas there is no considerable amount of Guarana obtained except from cultivated plants. The fruits are not "gathered in October and November," but in January. So far from being sold in the Santarem market at "9d per ℔.," it is difficult at most times to obtain Guarana at 75c. and $1, although the price is exceedingly variable. Guarana is not collected on the Rio Negro for market, or at least not to any extent.

Concerning Coca it is stated that the Bolivian Government derives an annual revenue of £40,000 from the "lease of wild coca shrubs." Now, the wild coca shrub is quite a curiosity in Bolivia, so rarely is it met with, and the government owns no shrubs, either wild or cultivated; nor does its income from the export duty on coca reach anywhere near such a figure as that named. The author's anxiety to have his work become the "standard" is hardly likely to be realized if the whole of it is on a par with this extract. There is a class of writers who sail along the coasts of foreign countries and pick up stray information concerning the interior, and who do much more harm than good. Reliable information, especially concerning South America, can only be obtained by actually visiting the locality, and then depending on one's eyes, religiously excluding the statements of the natives, for "the truth dwelleth not in them."—(H. H. R.)

Botany of the Afghan Delimitation Commission. (Nature, xxxv., pp. 173-174.) This is a very interesting, though too brief, account, by W. B. Hemsley, of the collections made by Dr. Aitchison of the vegetable products of the Perso-Afghan region, collections of great economic as well as scientific importance, as he paid special attention to the drug-producing plants and settled many doubtful questions. The collections contain about 100 new species, and were prepared and packed with great care. The main collection consists of about 800 species and 10,000 specimens, and yet does not include any plants from an altitude of more than 5,000 feet. The plants have not yet been fully worked out, but a full and illustrated report on the whole collection, in which prominence will be given to the economic plants, is promised early next year.

Awards of Botanical Prizes by the French Academy for 1886. The Barbier prize was given M. Eugene Collin for his work on "Structure Anatomique des Substances Medicinales," the Desmazieres prize to MM. Henri Van Heurck et A. Grunow for the "Synopsis des Diatomées de Belgique"; La Fons Mélicocq was divided between MM. Gaston Bonnier et G. de Layens on the one part and M. E. G. Camus on the other for works on the "Flore du Nord de la France," and the Montagne prize to M. le Dr. Quélet for an "ouvrage precieux," entitled "Enchiridion Fungorum in Europa media et præsertim in Gallia vigentium."—(Comptes Rendus, vol. ciii.)

The Flora of Madagascar. At the meeting of the Linnæan Society of London on November 18th, Mr. J. G. Baker read a paper entitled "Further Contributions to the Flora of Madagascar," in which upwards of 250 new species, seven of them representing new genera, were described. It appears that during the last ten years between 1100 and 1200 new plants have been made known from this island in the Journal of Botany and the Journal of the Linnæan Society.

Alchemilla vulgaris was found in great abundance about Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, by Professor Macoun and myself in 1883, growing in fields, etc., bordering on the sea shore.

T. J. W. BURGESS, M.D.

Magnolia acuminata, Var. *cordata,* Sargent. A correction should be made to the statement on p. 21 of the January BULLETIN, where it is said, regarding *Magnolia cordata,* that Dr. Gray recognizes it as a variety of *M. acuminata,* and appends a description. The description is by Professor Sargent.

Proceedings of the Club.

The regular monthly meeting was held Jan. 11th; 23 persons present. Vice-President Hogg in the chair.

The following were elected active members: Mrs. P. L. Le Brun, Mrs. D. A. McCredy, Miss C. M. Brewster, Dr. H. H.